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See previous "Documents on the Web" at
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/intrelations/webalert/default.htm>



Defense Strategy

♦ BEYOND THE RAINBOW PLANS: MILITARY INDUSTRIAL AND MOBILIZATION PLANNING IN AN UNCERTAIN CENTURY

James Jay Carafano, Ph.D.

Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #1959, August 10, 2006, 6 p.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/bg1959.cfm>

"Planning for an unpleasant future helped to prepare the United States for World War II. A similar effort today might better steel Americans for some other unprecedented future difficulty. The "new" Rainbow Plans should be used to generate requirements for the programs and policies needed to deal with radically different futures: programs and policies that can be implemented when strategic warning signs make it apparent that the unthinkable is about to happen."

♦ LEARNING LARGE LESSONS: THE EVOLVING ROLES OF GROUND POWER AND AIR POWER IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA.

David E. Johnson.

RAND. Web-posted August 18, 2006, 262 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND_MG405.pdf

This report examines the ways in which the relative roles of U.S. ground and air power have shifted since the end of the Cold War. At the warfighting level of military operations, the Air Force has proved capable of, and committed to, performing deep strike operations, which the Army long had believed the Air Force could not reliably accomplish. If air power can largely supplant Army systems in deep operations, the implications for both joint doctrine and service capabilities would be significant.

To assess the shift of these roles, Johnson analyzed post-Cold War conflicts in Iraq (1991), Bosnia (1995), Kosovo (1999), Afghanistan (2001), and Iraq (2003). Because joint doctrine frequently reflects a consensus view rather than a truly integrated joint perspective, the author recommends that joint doctrine - and the processes by which it is derived and promulgated - be

overhauled. He also recommends reform for the armed services beyond warfighting, so as to ensure that the United States can attain its strategic objectives.

◆ **U.S. CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND NUCLEAR DETERRENCE: A CHINA CASE STUDY**

Christopher Bolkcom, Shirley A. Kan, and Amy F. Woolf, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, August 11, 2006, 33 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33607.pdf>

"A key question for contemporary defense planners is what proportion of U.S. military capabilities should be focused on traditional military challenges and what proportion should be focused on non-traditional challenges, such as 'irregular, disruptive and catastrophic' threats?"

Foreign Relations

◆ **INDIA-IRAN RELATIONS AND U.S. INTERESTS.**

K. Alan Kronstadt and Kenneth Katzman.

Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, August 2, 2006, 6 p.

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/rs22486.pdf>

India has never shared U.S. assessments of Iran as an aggressive regional power. India-Iran relations have traditionally been positive and, in January 2003, the two countries launched a "strategic partnership" with the signing of the "New Delhi Declaration" and seven other substantive agreements. Indian leaders regularly speak of "civilizational ties" between the two countries, a reference to the interactions of Persian and Indus Valley civilizations over a period of millennia.

As U.S. relations with India have grown both deeper and more expansive in the new century, some in Washington believe that New Delhi's friendship with Tehran could become a significant obstacle to further development of U.S.-India ties. However, according to the authors of this report, India-Iran relations are unlikely to derail the further development of a U.S.-India global partnership. At the same time, given a clear Indian interest in maintaining positive ties with Iran - especially in the area of energy commerce - New Delhi is unlikely to abandon its relationship with Tehran or to accept dictation on the topic from external powers.

◆ **MOMENT OF REFLECTION, COMMITMENT TO ACTION.**

Simon Serfaty.

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). August 1, 2006, 6 p.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/csiseurope_aug_01_06.pdf

This summary report is based on discussions of a working group composed of leading experts on the European Union and transatlantic relations, who met for a pair of two-day seminars in spring 2006 at CSIS. This is the first of three reports which will be produced over the course of a larger, two-year project, entitled "A Global Euro-Atlantic Dialogue about the U.S., the EU, and NATO in the 21st Century."

Among the suggestions for creating stronger relationships are the following:

- * Stronger mechanisms for joint contingency planning for the possible consequences of a wide range of events, such as major terrorist attacks, natural disasters, severe energy shortages, territorial conflicts, etc.
- * Formal and informal networks to allow earlier coordination of U.S. and EU policies and strategies prior to the next round of trade negotiations.
- * More reliance on integrated packages that combine EU and U.S. aid.

Intelligence

◆ **RECOGNIZING IRAN AS A STRATEGIC THREAT: AN INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE FOR THE UNITED STATES**

U.S. House. Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 23, 2006, 29 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c16424.htm>

This report provides an unclassified assessment of the Iran question to help the American public understand the seriousness of the Iranian threat and to discuss ways U.S. intelligence collection and analysis against Iran must be improved.

Latin America

◆ **HARBINGERS OF HOPE: PEACE INITIATIVES IN COLOMBIA.**

Virginia Bouvier.
United States Institute of Peace (USIP). August 2006, 20 p.
<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr169.pdf>

This report stems from a conference co-sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Latin American Studies Program at Cornell University, held November 19-20, 2005. Colombia is in the midst of a prolonged and chronic, internal armed conflict that involves multiple armed actors (including guerrillas, paramilitary forces, state armed forces, common criminals, and drug traffickers) and has lasted for more than four decades. It also involves a broad range of individuals, organizations, and institutions dedicated to finding a nonviolent resolution to the conflict. Bouvier adds that President Alvaro Uribe was re-elected in May, which may give him a good position from which to pursue political solutions to the conflict.

The report states that armed groups are not the only stakeholders in the resolution of Colombia's conflict; indeed they are not even the primary ones. Civilian peace initiatives are promoting attitudes and structures that, according to the report, may help create a more inclusive political system that can manage conflict nonviolently. These and other expressions of social mobilization and collective action should be viewed as integral parts of any comprehensive and strategic peace policy and as important mechanisms for building the relationships of trust necessary for a reconciled society in Colombia.

Middle East

◆ **IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES**

Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 25, 2006, 49 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"Iran's nuclear program is not the only major U.S. concern on Iran. Successive administrations have pointed to the threat posed by Iran's policy in the Near East region, particularly material support to groups that use violence to prevent or complicate Israeli-Arab peace."

◆ **IRANIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS? OPTIONS FOR SANCTIONS AND MILITARY STRIKES**

Anthony H. Cordesman and Khalid R. Al-Rodhan
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Aug. 30, 2006, 54 p.
http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,3461/type,1/

"There is no way to know what strategy Iran will choose in the future, or how the international community will respond. Iran's possible efforts to acquire nuclear weapons are an ongoing test of the entire process of arms control and the ability limit nuclear proliferation. At the same time, they raise critical issues about how Iran might use such weapons and the security of the Gulf region -- an area with more than 60% of the world's proven conventional oil reserves and some 37% of its gas.

Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapons is not simply a struggle over issues of national prestige or "rights." It has a major potential impact on regional stability and future war fighting. If Iran does acquire nuclear weapons, it is possible that it will use them largely as a passive deterrent and means of defense. It is also possible, however, that Iran will use them to put direct or indirect pressure on its neighbors, threatening them to achieve goals it could not achieve without the explicit or tacit threat of weapons of mass destruction."

◆ **LEBANON**

Alfred B. Prado, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 15, 2006, 26 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"The United States and Lebanon continue to enjoy good relations. Prominent current issues between the United States and Lebanon include progress toward a Lebanon-Israel peace treaty, U.S. aid to Lebanon, and Lebanon's capacity to stop Hezbollah militia attacks on Israel."

◆ **LEBANON: THE ISRAEL-HAMAS-HEZBOLLAH CONFLICT**

Jeremy M. Sharp, Coordinator, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 14, 2006, 52 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"This report analyzes the current conflict between Israel and two U.S. State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), the Lebanese Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah and the radical Palestinian Hamas organization."

◆ **THE PERSIAN GULF STATES: ISSUES FOR U.S. POLICY, 2006**

Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 21, 2006, 38 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"The new power structure in Iraq has had political repercussions throughout the Gulf region, particularly as Sunni-Shiite violence in Iraq has come to overshadow direct insurgent violence against U.S. forces as the key threat to Iraqi stability. The Sunni-Shiite tensions in Iraq apparently are spilling over into the Gulf states. Shiite communities, particularly that in Bahrain, have been emboldened by events in Iraq to seek additional power, and Sunni-Shiite tension in the Gulf states is said by observers to be increasing."

◆ **REPORT TO CONGRESS: MEASURING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN IRAQ.**

U.S. Department of Defense, August 2006, 66 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c16424.htm>

This report is divided into three sections. The first section, "Stability and Security in Iraq," describes trends and progress toward meeting goals for political stability, strengthened economic activity, and a stable security environment in Iraq. The second section, "Iraqi Security Forces Training and Performance," describes progress in the training, development, and readiness of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), including the forces of the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the police and paramilitary forces of the Ministry of Interior (MOI). The third section, "Transition," describes the transfer of security responsibility from Coalition forces to the Iraqi government, including prerequisite conditions and criteria for assessing the readiness of provinces to assume responsibility for security.

◆ **SYRIA: U.S. RELATIONS AND BILATERAL ISSUES**

Alfred B. Prados, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 18, 2006, 20 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

“An array of bilateral issues continue to affect relations between the United States and Syria: the course of Arab-Israeli talks; questions of arms proliferation; Syrian connections with terrorist activity; Syria’s role in Lebanon; and Syria’s opposition to the U.S. occupation in Iraq.”

NATO

♦ NATO IN AFGHANISTAN: A TEST OF THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE

Paul Gallis, Specialist in European Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, August 22, 2006, 24 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

“The mission of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Afghanistan is seen as a test of the alliance’s political will and military capabilities. The allies are seeking to create a “new” NATO, able to go beyond the European theater and combat new threats such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Afghanistan is NATO’s first “out-of-area” mission beyond Europe.”

NonProliferation

♦ CHINA AND PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND MISSILES: POLICY ISSUES

Shirley A. Kan, Specialist in National Security Policy, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 2, 2006, 54 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

“Recipients of China’s technology reportedly include Pakistan and countries that the State Department says support terrorism, such as Iran and North Korea. This CRS Report, updated as warranted, discusses the national security problem of China’s role in weapons proliferation and issues related to the U.S. policy response, including legislation, since the mid-1990s.”

♦ IRAN’S NUCLEAR PROGRAM: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Sharon Squassoni, Specialist in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 3, 2006, 6 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

“International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections since 2003 have revealed almost two decades’ worth of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran, including uranium enrichment and plutonium separation efforts. Iran agreed in 2003 to suspend sensitive activities in exchange for promises of assistance from Germany, France, and the UK (EU-3), but negotiations broke down in August 2005. On September 24, 2005, the IAEA Board of Governors found Iran to be in noncompliance with its Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards agreement (GOV/2005/77) and voted (GOV/2006/14) on February 4, 2006, to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council. The Security Council called upon Iran to take steps requested of it by the IAEA Board in February — resuspend enrichment and reprocessing, reconsider construction of its heavy water reactor, ratify and implement the Additional Protocol, and implement transparency measures. Iran has continued enrichment activities and failed to meet the Security Council’s request. The permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany (P-5 +1) offered Iran a new proposal on June 6, but Iranian delays led to the Council passing UNSCR 1696, giving Iran a deadline of August 31 to comply.”

♦ NORTH KOREA’S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

Larry A. Niksch, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, August 1, 2006, 22 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"The main objective of the Bush Administration is to secure the dismantling of North Korea's plutonium and uranium-based nuclear programs. Its strategy has been: (1) terminating the Agreed Framework; (2) withholding U.S. reciprocal measures until North Korea takes steps to dismantle its nuclear programs; (3) assembling an international coalition, through six party negotiations, to apply diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea; and (4) imposing financial sanctions on foreign banks that facilitate North Korea's illegal counterfeiting activities."

◆ **U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS: CHANGES IN POLICY AND FORCE STRUCTURE**

Amy F. Woolf, Specialist in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, Updated August 10, 2006, 52 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c6694.htm>

"This report provides an overview of the U.S. nuclear posture to highlight areas of change and areas of continuity."

Terrorism

◆ **INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THREAT, POLICY, AND RESPONSE.**

Raphael F. Perl.
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, August 9, 2006, 33 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/70296.pdf>

Increasingly, international terrorism is recognized as a threat to U.S. foreign, as well as domestic, security. Both timing and target selection by terrorists can affect U.S. interests in areas ranging from preservation of commerce to nuclear nonproliferation to the Middle East peace process. A growing number of analysts express concern that radical Islamist groups seek to exploit economic and political tensions in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, Russia, Jordan, Pakistan, and other countries. Because of their avowed goal of overthrowing secular or Western-allied regimes in certain countries with large Moslem populations, such groups are seen as a particular threat to U.S. foreign policy objectives.

This report examines international terrorist actions, threats, U.S. policies and responses. It reviews the nation's use of tools at its disposal to combat terrorism -- from diplomacy and public diplomacy, international cooperation, and constructive engagement, to physical security enhancement, economic sanctions, covert action, and military force.

◆ **ON "OTHER WAR": LESSONS FROM FIVE DECADES OF RAND COUNTERINSURGENCY RESEARCH.**

Austin Long.
RAND. Web-posted August 9, 2006, 121 p.
http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND_MG482.pdf

In countless ways, the challenges posed by insurgency and instability are difficult to surmount. This study warns that these difficulties may embolden future opponents to embrace insurgency in combating the United States. Both the current and future conduct of the war on terror demand that the United States improve its ability to conduct counterinsurgency (COIN) operations. This study makes recommendations for improving COIN based on RAND's decades-long study of it.

The author makes some concrete recommendations regarding the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as for insurgencies in general:

* Organization for COIN must be improved. The Provincial Reconstruction Team model, which unites U.S. civilian and military personnel with local government, should be expanded and made the basis for current and future COIN efforts.

- * Amnesty and reward programs should be implemented or expanded.
- * New study of insurgent motivation and morale should be undertaken.
- * Given the cross-border elements of insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan, border security systems should be studied for both conflicts.
- * Pacification efforts should be focused on the lowest political echelons and combined with census-taking and national identification cards.

◆ **UNCONQUERABLE NATION: KNOWING OUR ENEMY, STRENGTHENING OURSELVES.**

Brian Michael Jenkins.

RAND. Web-posted August 15, 2006, 255 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND_MG454.pdf

This RAND monograph recommends a new strategy for America to fight terrorism at home and abroad while vigorously defending U.S. traditions of freedom and civil liberties. In the report, Jenkins contends that political warfare should be used to try to discredit the jihadist ideology among people about to join the ranks of terrorist forces, among jihadist fighters and among captured prisoners. Using informants, carrying out surveillance and arrests at known jihadist recruiting sites, and showcasing defectors to try to persuade their former colleagues to abandon terrorism, are all tools that could be used in this effort.

Americans should safeguard the civil liberties and limits on governmental power that are vital to preserve freedom and democracy in the nation, says the author. He is troubled by those who have tried to justify torture, abuse of prisoners and disregard of the constitutional limits on the power of the executive branch in the name of strengthening the war on terrorism.

Jenkins urges the U.S. to take the following steps:

- * Get realistic about risk by assuming that America will be hit again by terrorists, without exaggerating the risk of terrorism to individual Americans.
- * Enlist the public through education, preparation and participation in drills to increase America's ability to respond to natural disasters and man-made ones (such as terrorist attacks).
- * Become more sophisticated about security.
- * Support federal security spending to protect against terrorism that would also be beneficial even if no terrorist attacks occur.
- * Improve local intelligence.
- * Build a better legal framework for preventive detentions of suspected terrorists.
- * Guarantee oversight of federal actions in the war on terrorism.

U.S. Army

◆ **THE ARMY'S FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS: PROGRAM AND ALTERNATIVES**

U.S. Congress. Congressional Budget Office (CBO), August 2006, 112 p.

<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=7461&sequence=0>

"This study ... considers the near- and long-term implications of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program. It also examines several alternatives for modernizing the Army's armored forces and estimates the costs and savings associated with those options as well as their effects on the Army's fleet of armored vehicles and the ability of its armored units to deploy overseas. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, impartial analysis, the report makes no recommendations."

Miscellaneous

◆ **COUNTRIES AT THE CROSSROADS 2006.**

Freedom House. August 3, 2006.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=140&edition=7>

Individual Country Reports:

<http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=140&edition=7&ccrpage=31>>
[Table of Contents, reports in html format, each report approximately 15 printed pages]

This report examines the state of governance in 30 countries where democratic institutions remain fragile or that are ruled by authoritarian governments. The study assesses four areas of governance: accountability and public voice; civil liberties; rule of law; and anticorruption and transparency. In almost every country included in the survey, the lowest scores were recorded for corruption and a lack of transparency. The study further notes that since 2004, when this group of countries was last evaluated, a lack of progress or, in many cases, an outright decline in performance on combating corruption was evident. The poor corruption performance holds across geographic regions and systems of government.

Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan, Yemen, Kazakhstan and Bahrain were the five weakest performers on the anticorruption measure. Zimbabwe was the worst performer of all 30 countries in this category. The report finds that countries such as South Africa and Kenya, which have relatively sound performance in terms of accountability and public voice, nevertheless posted low scores for corruption.

The survey presents a number of other significant findings:

- * Respect for the rule of law has dramatically declined across the survey since 2004, with decreased scores in nearly half of the countries examined.
- * Torture in police custody remains the most pressing human rights problem in more than half of the countries examined.
- * Countries that have achieved particular improvement in the past two years include Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Morocco and Ukraine. Those that have declined the most are Nepal, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.
- * In nearly two-thirds of the reports, experts emphasize a need to balance the political playing field, especially in the context of election campaigns, where incumbents often dominate and prevent the press from providing useful information to the public.

◆ HUMAN TRAFFICKING: BETTER DATA, STRATEGY, AND REPORTING NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S. ANTITRAFFICKING EFFORTS ABROAD.

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). July 18, 2006; Web-posted August 14, 2006, 69 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06825.pdf>

In 2000, Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) to combat trafficking and reauthorized this act twice. This report reviews U.S. international antitrafficking efforts by examining (1) estimates of the extent of global trafficking, (2) the U.S. government's strategy for combating the problem abroad, and (3) the Department of State's process for evaluating foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts.

This GAO report cites U.S. government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders annually. "However, such estimates of global human trafficking are questionable. The accuracy of the estimates is in doubt . . ." With regard to the government's antitrafficking strategy, GAO comments: "While federal agencies have undertaken antitrafficking activities, the U.S. government has not developed a coordinated strategy for combating trafficking abroad or developed a way to gauge results and target its overall assistance. The U.S. government has established coordination mechanisms, but they do not include a systematic way for agencies to clearly delineate roles and responsibilities in relation to each other, identify needs, or leverage activities to achieve greater results."

Concerning State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, GAO notes that it has increased global awareness, encouraged government action, and raised the risk of sanctions against governments who did not make significant efforts to comply with the standards. However, continues GAO, "State does not comprehensively describe compliance with the standards, lessening the report's

credibility and usefulness as a diplomatic tool. Further, incomplete country narratives reduce the report's utility as a guide to help focus U.S. government resources on antitrafficking programming priorities."

Recommendations from GAO include the following: ". . . that the Secretary of State (1) improve information on trafficking, (2) develop and implement a strategy that clarifies agencies' roles and responsibilities and establishes a way to gauge results abroad, and (3) clearly document the rationale and support for country rankings." Appendices contain lengthy and in-depth comments from the State Department.

Visit the IRC website at
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/default.htm>

